

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

1. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: None of the prior art of record, alone or in combination, discloses a stent including, inter alia, a coating including a primer layer of a polymer composition of two or more polymers and a drug reservoir layer having a polymer composition of two or more polymers, where the stent includes an intermediate layer between the primer layer and the drug reservoir layer and comprising a polymer composition distinct from the polymer compositions of the primer layer and drug reservoir layer. Also, none of the prior art of record, alone or in combination, discloses a stent having a coating including, inter alia, a primer layer and a single outermost drug reservoir layer, where each of the layers include a hybrid polymer composition of at least one hydrophobic polymer and at least one hydrophilic polymer. Finally, none of the prior art of record, alone or in combination, discloses a stent including, inter alia, a coating including a primer layer of a polymer composition of two or more polymers and a drug reservoir layer having a polymer composition of two or more polymers, where the primer layer also includes one or more cross-linking and/or cross-linkable polymers selected from epoxy resins, melamine resins, phenolics, and isocyanate polymers.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

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2. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Julian W. Woo whose telephone number is 571-272-4707. The examiner can normally be reached on M-TH:6:30-4:00; alt. Fri.: 6:30-3:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tan-Uyen (Jackie) Ho can be reached on 571-272-4696. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Julian W. Woo/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3773